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MARVELLOUS TOWER.

WASHINGTON, IRVING.

morning sun shone brightly on the towers of Toledo, King Roderick issued out of the city, at the head of a train of courtiers and attendants, and crossed the bridge that led to the deep and rocky bed of the river. The shining cavalcade wound along the river bank, and soon came in sight of the massive tower.

MARVELLOUS TOWER.

King Roderick and his courtiers, wondering and amused, at the sight of the rock. Here was a narrow way cut through the living rock, the only entrance to the tower, and the massive iron gate, with rusty locks of divers shape, and in the fashion of centuries, which had been made by the predecessors of Don Roderick. On either side of the portal, the two ancient guardians of the tower, clad in armor, and with the keys appertaining to the locks.

such a sight and surrounding scene upon the walls, as to prevent all further entrance.

The king passed at the sight of this marvelous tower, whether it was living, or a statue of magic artifice, he could not tell. On its base was a scroll, wherein was inscribed in large letters, "I do my duty." After a little while Roderick plucked up heart, and addressed it with great solemnity. "Whatever thou be," said he, "know that I came not to violate this sanctuary, but to inquire into the mystery it contains. I conjure thee, therefore, to let me pass in safety."

Upon this the figure ceased with uplifted voice, and the king and his train passed unobserved through the door.

They now entered a vast chamber, of a rare and sumptuous architecture, difficult to be described. The walls were encrusted with the most precious gems, so joined together as to form one smooth and perfect surface. The lofty dome appeared to be self-supported, and was studded with gem-lustrous as the stars of the firmament. There was neither wood, nor any other common or base material to be seen throughout the edifice. There were no windows or other openings to admit the day, yet a radiant light was spread throughout the place, which seemed to shine from the walls, and render every object distinctly visible.

In the centre of this hall stood a table of alabaster, of the rarest workmanship, on which was inscribed in Greek characters, that Hercules Alcides, the Theban Greek, had founded this tower in the year of the world three thousand and six. Upon the table stood a golden casket, richly set round with precious stones, and closed with a lock of the mother-of-pearl; and on the lid were inscribed the following words:

"In this casket is contained the mystery of the tower. The hand of none but a king can open it; but let him beware! for marvelous events will be revealed to him which are to take place before his death."

King Roderick boldly seized upon the casket. The venerable Archbishop laid his hand upon his arm, and made a last remonstrance. "Forbear, my son!" said he; "desist while there is yet time. Look not into the mysterious decrees of Providence. God has hidden them in mercy from our sight; and it is impious to rend the veil by which they are concealed."

"What have I to dread from a knowledge of the future?" with an air of presumption. "If good be destined me, I shall enjoy it by anticipation; if evil, I shall arm myself to meet it!"—so saying, he rashly broke the lock.

Within the casket he found nothing but a linen cloth, folded between two tables of copper. On unfolding it, he beheld painted on it figures of men on horseback, of fierce demeanor, clad in turbans and robes of various colors, after the fashion of the Arabs with cimeters hanging from their heels and cross bows at their saddle backs, and they carried banners with divers devices. Above them were inscribed in Greek characters, "Rash monarch! behold the men who are to hurl thee from thy throne, and subdue thy kingdom!"

At the sight of these things the king was troubled in spirit, and dismayed fell upon his attendants. While yet regarding the paintings, it seemed as if the figures began to move, and a faint sound of warlike tumult arose from the cloth, with the clash of cymbal and the bray of trumpet, the neigh of steed and shout of army; but all was heard indistinctly, as if afar off, or in a reverie or dream. The more they gazed, the plainer became the motion, and the louder the noise, and more distinct; and the linen cloth rolled forth, and amplified, and spread out, as it were, a mighty banner, and filled the hall, and mingled with the air, until its texture was no longer visible, or appeared a transparent cloud; and the shadowy figures became all in unison, and the din and uproar became fiercer and fiercer; and whether the whole were an animated picture or a vision, or an array of embodied spirits, conjured up by supernatural power, no one could tell. They beheld before them a great field of battle, where Christians and Moslems were engaged in deadly conflict. They heard the rush and tramp of steeds, the blast of trumpet and clarion, the clash of cymbal, and the stormy din of a thousand drums. There was a clash of swords on maces, and battle axes, with the whistling of arrows, and the hurrying of darts and lances. The Christians quailed before the foe; the infidels

pressed upon them, and put them to flight; the standard of the cross was cast down, the banner of Islam was trampled under foot, the air resounded with shouts of triumph, with yells of fury, and with the groans of dying men. Amidst the flying warriors King Roderick beheld a crowned head, whose back was turned towards him, but whose armor and device were his own, and who was mounted on a white steed that resembled his own warhorse Orelas. In the confusion of the fight, the warrior was dismounted, and was no longer to be seen and Orelas galloped proudly through the field of battle without a rider.

Roderick stayed to see no more, but rushed from the fatal hall, followed by his terrified attendants. They fled through the outer chamber, where the gigantic figure with the whirling mace had disappeared from his pedestal; and on tearing into the open air, they found the two ancient guardians of the tower lying dead at the portal, as though they had been crushed by some mighty blow. All its towers, which had been clear and serene, was now in wild uproar. The heavens were darkened by heavy clouds; loud bursts of thunder rent the air, and the earth was deluged with rain and rattling hail.

The king ordered that the iron portal should be closed; but the door was immovable, and the cavaliers were dismayed by the tremendous turmoil and the mingled shouts and groans that continued to prevail within. The king and his train hastened back to Toledo, pursued and pelted by the tempest. The mountains shook and echoed with thunder, trees were uprooted and blown down, and the Tagus raged and roared, and flowed above its banks. It seemed to the affrighted courtiers as if the phantom legends of the tower had issued forth and mingled with the storm; for amid the claps of thunder, and the howling of the wind, they fancied they heard the sound of the drums and trumpets, the shouts of armies, and the rush of steeds. Thus beaten by tempest, and overwhelmed with horror, the king and his courtiers arrived at Toledo, clattering across the bridge of the Tagus, and entering the gate in headlong confusion, as though they had been pursued by an enemy.

In the morning the heavens were again serene, and all nature was restored to tranquility. The king, therefore, issued forth with cavaliers, and took the road to the tower, followed by a great multitude, for he was anxious once more to close the iron door, and shut up those evils that threatened to overwhelm the land. But lo! on coming in sight of the tower, a wonder met their eyes. An eagle appeared high in the air, seeming to descend from heaven. He bore in his beak a burning brand, and lighting on the summit of the tower, fanned the fire with his wings. In a little while the edifice burst forth in a blaze, as though it had been built of rosin, and the flame mounted into the air with a brilliancy more dazzling than the sun; nor did they cease until every stone was consumed, and the whole was reduced to a heap of ashes. Then there came a vast flight of birds, small of size and sable of hue, darkening the sky like a cloud; and they descended and wheeled in circles round the ashes causing so great a wind with their wings, that the whole was borne up into the air and scattered throughout all Spain; and wherever a particle of those ashes fell it was a stain of blood. It is further more recorded by ancient men and writers of former days, that all those on whom this dust fell were afterwards slain in battle, when the country was conquered by the Arabs, and that the destruction of this necromantic tower was a sign and token of the approaching perdition of Spain.

"Want thome maple thugar?" said a little lisping urchin who dropped in yesterday with a basket full of maple sugar juncracks. "We just do, my lad—what do you ask?" "A thilling a hunk!" "We no made it!" My thither Luthinda—and she told me to give the head eater in the prison with a goth of a great job." "Oh she did, did she! well, if she's as sweet as her sugar, she's one of the finest conDIMENTS in creation." "Yeth'em!" and tell her that some lover of sweet things will soon overtake her!" "Coth, the 'th catch'd, and going to be notch'd next week to Jim Barney." He laid upon the table a thumping great piece of this congealed nectar and honey, made in the shape of a heart, and vanished in the twinkling of a bed-post. Miss Saccharina Dulcissima Lucinda, we owe you one.

THE VOTERS OF MISSISSIPPI.

THE VOTERS OF MISSISSIPPI. In becoming a candidate for Auditor of Public Accounts, Mr. Noddy has made it proper for me to present you with a brief statement of my political principles.

An American by birth, and a Mississippian by choice, it is but natural that I should be a republican. I was born in America, at a period when party spirit had shown but little of its present rancor. Party spirit, to some extent, is natural to our form of government, both state and federal; and by the father of his country, was considered necessary; but I am well persuaded that the excess into party spirit has carried many in our day; spring not from that description which he thought important to keep the spirit of liberty awake to the danger of apathy. We have seen parties spring up, first under one leader and name, and then another—at times general, then sectional, and at some times, seem to overwhelm all before them in the shape of opposition, and even menace the stability of the government. These, however, like darkness before the rising sun, upon the return of calm reflection, in the great body of the people, have disappeared.

I can lay no claim to merit, from a blind devotion to any of these parties. I have never been in the ranks of any of them—my fate has never depended upon the uprising of one, nor the downfall of another. So far as the measures of the party in power, for the time being, were in my opinion, calculated to promote the great interests of our common country, I gave them my humble support—in those which my judgment did not concur, I have uniformly expressed my disapprobation. In doing this, I have only exercised the republican privilege, secured to every freeman, and which a proper spirit of tolerance will still secure to freemen, so long as our free institutions survive the machinations of party strife. Thus far I have thought proper to go, in relation to party, as I do not intend to change my established line of conduct in party matters—I am not disposed to rise and fall with the capricious destiny of party—my success shall depend upon a deserved reputation for honesty and ability, to fill the office to which I aspire. Upon applications for office to the great apostle of independence, Thomas Jefferson, the only inquiry he made was, "is he honest, is he capable." These are inquiries fit to be made by my intelligent countrymen; and such as I shall take pleasure in having answered to their satisfaction; and not whether I am a Whiteman, a Van Buren man, a Bank-man, or an Anti-Bank-man. To the two first I would reply, *I am no man's man; I am my own man*, and will remain so until I am made the people's man; and then I will be their's so far as the public business shall require it. To the two latter I would say, I am for a sound and uniform currency, such as will answer all the purposes of commerce, and will be equal and uniform in its value.

Thus fellow-citizens; you will perceive that I come before you for an important office, stripped of all the arbitrary magic of party; depending for success alone upon your intelligence and justice, and my own merit and qualification. Unconnected as I am with any powerful party, or even with any strong family influence, I can only hope for success by becoming generally acquainted, which I will take all proper means in my power to do.

In becoming a candidate for the office of Auditor, let me assure you that it is from a wish to be elected—the salary is worth the attention of a capable incumbent—and not from any improper spirit of rivalry towards either of the gentlemen who are now, or any who may yet become candidates for the same office. Should you confer on me the responsible station, to which I aspire, be assured that you shall have bestowed upon the duties of the office, the undivided care and attention of your fellow-citizen.

JOHN S. ADAMS.

Jackson, June 23, 1873.

*See Washington's valdictory address.

A dispute between men of honor.—The pleasant satirical "Pickwick papers" furnish the following amusing description of a dispute between two young gentlemen of honor, which seems to have been conducted with much spirit on both sides:—*Nat. Int.*

"The belligerents vented their feelings of mutual contempt for some time in a variety of growlings and snortings, until at last the scrobbled youth

came in a high degree, but it is not from these the beauty of the heart; it is all that sweetness of temper, benevolence, tranquillity, & sensibility, which a face can express, that forms her beauty."

"She has a face that just raises your attention at first sight; it grows on you every moment, and you wonder it did no more than raise your attention at first."

"Her eyes have a mild light, but they awe you when she pleases; they command, like a good man out of office, not by authority, but by virtue."

"Her features are not perfectly regular; that sort of exactness is more to be praised than to be believed; for it is never animated."

"Her stature is not tall; she is not made to be the admiration of every body, but the happiness of one."

"She has all the firmness that does not exclude delicacy; she has all the softness that does not imply weakness."

"There is often more of the coquette shown in an affected plainness than in a tawdry finery; she is always clean without preciseness of affection. Her gravity is a gentle thoughtfulness that softens the features without discomposing them; she is usually grave."

"Her smiles are inexpressible."

"Her voice is low, soft, music, not formed to rule in public assemblies, but to charm those who can distinguish a company from a crowd; it has this advantage, you must come close to her to hear it."

"To describe her body describes her mind; one is the transcript of the other. Her understanding is not shown in the variety of matters it exerts itself on, but in the goodness of the choice she makes. She does not display it so much in saying or doing striking things as in avoiding such as she ought not to say or do."

"She discovers the right and wrong of things not by reasoning, but sagacity; most women, and many good ones, have a closeness and something selfish in their dispositions; she has a true generosity of temper; the most extravagant cannot be more unbounded in their liberality, the most covetous not more cautious in the distribution."

"No person of so few years can know the world better; no person was ever less corrupted by that knowledge."

"Her politeness seems rather to flow from a natural disposition to oblige, than from any rules on the subject; and therefore never fails to strike those who understand good breeding and those who do not."

"She does not run with a girlish eagerness into new friendships; which as they have no foundation in reason, serve only to multiply and embitter disputes; it is long before she chooses, but then it is fixed forever; and the first hours of romantic friendships are not warmer than hersafter the lapse of years."

"As she never disgraces her good nature by severe reflections on any body, so she never degrades her judgment by immoderate or ill placed praise; for every thing violent is contrary to her gentleness of disposition, and the evenness of her virtue."

"She has a steady and firm mind, which takes no more from the female character than the solidity of marble does from its polish and lustre."

"She has such virtue as makes us value the truly great of our own sex; she has all the winning graces that make us love even the faults we see in the weak and beautiful of hers."

Edification of Married Men.—Ven you are a married man, Samivel, you'll understand a good many things as you dont understand; but vether it's worth while to goin' through so much to learn so little, as the charity boy said ven he got to the end of the alphabet, is a matter of taste.—I think it isn't.—*Pickwick paper.*

Good.—A young lady was told by a married lady that she had better precipitate herself off the Niagara falls in the basin beneath than marry.—The young lady replied, "I would if I thought I could find a husband at the bottom!"

"Times aint as they used to was, and folks don't act as they used to did"—is a very apt saying.

Prudent Postponement.—One of our young friends, says the Providence Courier, being rallied on the addition of his name to the list of matrimonial candidates, and asked about the time, &c., replied that the happy day was deferred until—the Banks should resume specie payment! The Bank of England suspended for 26 years! When will our own resume?

It is necessary for some to a more exact understanding of the matter, when the following short explanation may be given.

"However," replied the youthful lady, "I am a good woman."

"Well, Noddy," replied Mr. Noddy, "I should be very sorry, Samivel, and Mr. Noddy, to create any unpleasantness at my friend's table, and much less at yours, Samivel—very, but I must take this opportunity of informing Mr. Gunter that he is no gentleman."

"And I should be very sorry, Samivel, to create any disturbance in the street in which you reside," said Mr. Gunter, "but I am afraid I shall be under the necessity of alarming the neighbors by throwing the person who has just spoken out of the window."

"What do you mean by that, sir?" inquired Mr. Noddy.

"What I say," replied Mr. Gunter, "I should like to see you do it, sir," said Mr. Noddy.

"You shall feel me do it in half a minute, sir," replied Mr. Gunter.

"I request that you'll favor me with your card, sir," said Mr. Noddy.

"I'll do nothing of the kind, sir," replied Mr. Gunter.

"Why not, sir," inquired Mr. Noddy.

"Because you'll stick it up over your chimney piece, and delude your visitors into the false belief that a gentleman has been to see you, sir," replied Mr. Gunter.

"Sir, a friend of mine shall wait on you in the morning," said Mr. Noddy.

"Sir, I'm very much obliged to you for the caution, and I'll leave particular directions with the servant to look up the spoons," replied Mr. Gunter.

At this point the remainder of the guests interposed, and remonstrated with both parties on the impropriety of their conduct, on which Mr. Noddy begged to state that his father was quite as respectable as Mr. Gunter's father, and that his father's son was as good a man as Mr. Noddy, any day in the week.

As this announcement seemed the prelude to a recommencement of the dispute, there was another interference on the part of the company; and a vast quantity of talking and clamoring ensued, in the course of which Mr. Noddy gradually allow his feelings to overpower him, and professed that he had ever entertained a devoted personal attachment towards Mr. Gunter. To this Mr. Gunter replied that, upon the whole, he rather preferred Mr. Noddy to his own brother. On hearing which admission, Mr Noddy magnanimously rose from his seat, and proffered his hand to Mr. Gunter. Mr. Gunter grasped it with affecting fervor; and every body said that the dispute had been conducted in a manner which was highly honorable to both parties concerned.

"I say, Pat, what are you writing there, in such a large hand?" "Arrah, honey, an' isn't to my poor mother, who is very deaf, that I'm writing a loud letter."

The inconvenience of a beautiful daughter.—A Mr. Very was a confectioner in Regent street, London, and he had a daughter who attended to his shop, who was considered so beautiful that a crowd of three or four hundred persons used daily to assemble and stand at her shop for the purpose of looking at her. Police officers were obliged to be in constant attendance before Mr. Very's house, and the inconvenience was so great, both to Mr. Very and his neighbors, that he was obliged to send his daughter out of town.—*Note, in 6 Carrington and Payne, 636.*

THE IDEA OF A PERFECT WIFE.

Burke, the statesman, used repeatedly to declare, that every care vanished the moment he entered his own roof. He wrote the following beautiful descriptive prose paper, "The idea of a perfect wife," which he presented to Mrs. B. one morning on the anniversary of their marriage, delicately heading the paper, as below, leaving her to fill up the blank:

"THE CHARACTER OF—"

"I intend to give you my idea of a woman; if it at all answers any original, I shall be pleased; for if such a person as I would describe really exist, she must be far superior to my description, and such I must love too well to be able to paint as I ought."

"She is handsome; but it is a beauty not arising from features, from complexion, or from shape; she has all